



RESEARCH TOPIC CLI28

Simultaneous care in recurrent and/or metastatic Head and Neck cancer: The SupCare study

Research Area

Medical Area

Clinical Unit name

Head and Neck and non-melanoma skin cancer Section, Medical Oncology and Hematology Unit, IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Via Manzoni 56, 20089, Rozzano (MI), Italy

Supervisor

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Abstract

Patients with recurrent and/or metastatic (RM) Head and Neck Cancer (HNC) suffer of physical, emotional, and functional symptoms, which greatly impact their quality of life. This is why multimodal and multidisciplinary interventions are essential for these patients, who frequently need high levels of palliative and supportive care interventions from the early stages of diagnosis. Evidence in other solid tumours has shown that an early simultaneous care approach provides a benefit for the patients, but there is no evidence yet for patients with HNC. Furthermore, quality of life and patient-reported outcomes are essential research objectives in oncology today.

This multicentre, international, prospective, randomised phase II trial fits precisely into this line of research; it is promoted by EORTC (European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer), and Humanitas is the coordinating center. The project includes 160 patients, with the aim to assess the value of early palliative care integrated with standard oncologic care in patients with RM HNC candidate to first line palliative systemic treatment. Patients are randomised in a 1:1 fashion to standard oncologic care, in which palliative care is administered as needed (reactive approach) or to early palliative care integrated with standard oncologic care (proactive approach).

The primary endpoint is the change from baseline in emotional functioning and pain scores according to EORTC QLQ-C15-PAL questionnaire at 15 weeks.

The PhD student will be responsible for supervising the project together with the local PI, will evaluate the patients to be enrolled/enrolled at IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, and will collaborate with the PIs of the other European centres to coordinate the project, collect data, contribute to the analyses and presentation/publication of the results.

The project has a strong quality of life assessment component, through validated questionnaires and a rigorous methodology.

Scientific references

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Type of contract

Position reserved for employees of IRCCS Humanitas Rozzano (PhD Executive).

Posizione riservata a dipendente di IRCCS Humanitas Rozzano (PhD Executive).